

GWP Celebrates World Water Day 22 March 2012

The GWP network celebrated the World Water Day with activities such as Photo contest, Water walks, water debates, competition among school pupils on water use and public meetings on water management. GWP Executive Secretary Dr. Ania Grobicki spoke at a World Water Day press conference at the United Nations in New York.

GWP Calls for Recommitment to IWRM Plans at Rio+20

Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary, spoke at a World Water Day press conference at the United Nations in New York, and called on governments to recommit to IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012. Governments agreed to such Plans in Johannesburg, South Africa, known as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002).

<http://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-in-action/News-and-Activities/GWP-Calls-for-Recommitment-to-IWRM-Plans-at-Rio20/>

GWP CARIBBEAN

World Water Day (WWD) 2012 with its theme “*Water and Food Security*” sought to particularly raise awareness across the globe on the critical relationship between water and food security and to promote the need to conserve water.

Global Water Partnership-Caribbean’s (GWP-C’s) partners throughout the region joined the many people and organisations around the world in commemorating WWD on March 22nd, 2012 in the following ways:

Antigua

In observance of WWD 2012, the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) carried out the following activities:

1. A WWD address by the Minister of Public Utilities of Antigua.
2. A WWD Fun Walk hosted by the APUA’s Health Safety and Wellness Committee and the Water Business Unit. The Walk sought to sensitise persons on the plight of many who have to walk long distances to obtain potable water.
3. A “Water Conservation” presentation was made at two secondary schools on Friday, March 23rd, 2012.
4. A tour of the APUA’s water treatment facilities at Fryyes Beach in Antigua for three secondary schools as well as presentations to assist them with their Caribbean Examinations Council (C.X.C.) school-based assessments.
5. An exhibition to commemorate WWD at the Sandals Resort in Antigua, inclusive of a presentation.
6. Presentation to hotel guests and members of the public at the Grand Pineapple Hotel in Antigua.

Barbados

The Barbados Chapter of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) issued a press release on WWD entitled “*Water Situation in Barbados Threatens to Derail Island’s Green Economy Thrust.*” The press release can be found at this link:

<http://www.caribbeanpressreleases.com/articles/9285/1/Water-Situation-in-Barbados-Threatens-to-Derail-Islands-Green-Economy-Thrust/Page1.html>.

Dominica

The Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Ltd. (DOWASCO) commemorated WWD 2012 with the following activities:

- A radio address by the Honourable Reginald Austrie, Minister of Housing, Lands, Settlements and Water Resources.
- Radio Quizzes on the Dominica Broadcasting Station (DBS) and Kairi FM.
- Distribution of brochures on water management to customers visiting the DOWASCO's main office.
- Live panel discussion on Government Information Services (GIS) television.
- Presentation on water to students of the St. Mary's Primary School at the Public Library.
- Water discussion on DBS's Creole programme.

Grenada

In observance of WWD, GWP-C's partner, the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) - Grenada Chapter, adopted the St. Martin's Home for the Aged in the area of Crochu, St. Andrew's on WWD on March 22nd, 2012. On that day, the CWWA-Grenada Chapter assisted with the Home's water and wastewater needs, repaired pipes, plumbing fixtures and installed a water tank to harvest rainwater.

Here's a look at the work that took place at the St. Martin's Home on WWD:



Workers under the guidance of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)-Grenada Chapter are seen here assessing the St. Martin's Home water and plumbing fixtures and working to repair and install new pipes.



From Left - Right: Mr. Alphonsus Daniel, Vice President of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and Mr. Trevor Thompson, GWP-C Chair, are seen here at the St. Mary's Home on World Water Day during the installation of a new water tank to collect rainwater at the Home.

Also in Grenada, the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) commemorated WWD 2012 through the following activities:

1. *Free Reconnection Promotion* - On WWD only, disconnected domestic customers were offered free reconnection (special conditions applied).
2. *Water Conservation March* - On March 23rd, 2012, the NAWASA held its 2nd Annual Water Conservation March in observance of WWD. The march started in the area of Grenville and ended in Victoria Park, St. Andrew with a cultural event which saw the participation of more than six hundred students from twenty-two schools across the island.

At the cultural event, students of all ages engaged in water conservation activities and were encouraged to use innovative ways to conserve water. Prizes were awarded to the best organised school; the best banner; the best placard; and the best march past portrayal at the primary and secondary school level.



St. Joseph's Convent - Winner of the top prize at the NAWASA's 2nd Annual Water Conservation March.



Students displaying their placards with water conservations messages.

3. *Facebook Competition* - A trivia competition about WWD, water conservation, food security and NAWASA. Participants visited the NAWASA's facebook page and posted the answer to a question each day leading up to WWD.



The National Water and Sewerage Authority's (NAWASA's) World Water Day Facebook winner is seen here being presented with her prize by Mr. Mikhael Marshall, Customer Service Representative at the NAWASA.

Guyana

In observance of WWD 2012, various water stakeholders in Guyana participated in a panel discussion on "Water and Food Security" for broadcast on local television. The event was coordinated by the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) and comprised of panelist from GWI, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Guianas), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

On WWD, GWI in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), PAHO, WWF-Guianas, EPA, FAO and the Ministry of Health, hosted a special symposium aimed at educating high school students on "Water and Food Security."

More than fifty students from various high schools in Guyana participated in the symposium. The students were exposed to a series of interactive presentations and activities highlighting the importance of water conservation and protection of freshwater resources with the overarching theme of preserving freshwater supplies to maintain food security.

Students also had the opportunity to learn about safe and proper rainwater harvesting practices. The Honourable Irfaan Ali, Minister of Housing and Water and the Honourable Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Health of Guyana attended the launch of the symposium and urged the students participating to spread the message of protecting freshwater resources.

Here's a look at some of the activities that took place during the WWD Symposium:



Students creating water conservation posters for World Water Day.



Students are seen here presenting their water conservation posters.

Jamaica

The Water Resources Authority (WRA) of Jamaica planned various activities in observance of WWD 2012. These included:

1. An open day/exhibition on the 2012 WWD theme “Water and Food Security.” The exhibition focused on rainwater harvesting as an alternative to piped water. Live outside broadcasts of the event were done on Radio Jamaica and Power 106.
2. Features in two daily papers (the Jamaica Gleaner and Observer) with editorial content provided by stakeholders such as the Water Resources Authority, the National Water Commission, the National Irrigation Commission and the National Environment and Planning Agency.
3. Interviews on several radio and television morning programmes such as Calling Farmers, Smile Jamaica on Television Jamaica (TVJ) and CVM at Sunrise.
4. In an attempt to target children, an episode of the television programme “Kids Say” which airs on Television Jamaica (TVJ) focused on the importance of water and water conservation. On “Kids Say” children from across Jamaica speak openly on various topics.

St. Kitts and Nevis

The St. Kitts Water Services Department (WSD) put on a week of activities from March 18th - 24th, 2012 to celebrate WWD. The following is a list of these activities by the WSD:

1. Ministerial speech/statement to commemorate WWD 2012 in St. Kitts and Nevis on television and radio stations.
2. WSD staff engaged the community by visiting both primary and secondary schools on “Water and Food Security.”
3. WSD staff made appearances on various radio and television programmes to speak about the importance of water and its link to food security.
4. WSD hosted a joint activity with the Department of Agriculture and Taiwan Technical Mission at an agro-processing facility in the area of Needsmust. The event included:
 - Guided tours of the agro-processing facility.
 - Sampling of local juices produced at the facility.
 - An information booth with posters and brochures.
 - Meeting key staff from both the Water and Agriculture Departments.
 - A feature demonstration of water conservation practices and irrigation technologies.
5. A guided tour to Stonefort water source.

St. Lucia

The following is a list of activities that were organised by the Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA) of St. Lucia to commemorate WWD 2012:

1. Advertisement on WWD 2012 and surrounding water issues was published in the Voice newspaper.
2. Articles from water related agencies regarding “Water and Food Security” were published in the Star, Voice and Mirror newspapers.

3. WWD rubber stamp was used at the General Post Office on all outgoing mail in order to promote public awareness.
4. A public address was delivered on WWD by St. Lucia's Minister of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology.
5. Presentations were made to students at the Dennery School on March 31st, 2012.
6. Radio announcements were made regarding WWD on March 22nd, 2012 on Radio St. Lucia.
7. A fifteen minute radio interview for the "Agriculture-In-Focus" programme was aired on Radio St. Lucia.
8. A thirty minute Government Information Service (GIS) programme was shown on local television where panelists discussed water and food security.
9. A thirty minute interview on "Discourse" was aired on Choice TV on March 20th, 2012.
10. A discussion on water and food security on "NewsSpin" was aired on WWD on Radio Caribbean International (RCI) in St. Lucia.

Trinidad and Tobago

To celebrate WWD 2012, the Women, Gender and Water Network hosted an interactive workshop and puppet show for children under the theme "Gender, Climate Change and Water." The activity took place on March 23rd, 2012 at the Matelot Community Roman Catholic Primary School in Trinidad.



Students are seen here during the interactive "Gender, Climate Change and Water" workshop put on by the Women, Gender and Water Network on March 23rd, 2012.

Also in Trinidad, the National Institute of Higher Education Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) visited primary and secondary schools in rural areas on WWD to share information on water conservation. The school visits were within the framework of a NIHERST project aimed at establishing rainwater harvesting systems for more than ten primary and secondary schools in rural areas in Trinidad.

In commemorating WWD, the NIHERST also put on a host of exciting hands-on water activities at its National Science Centre (NSC) from March 20th - 23rd, 2012, which included the display of GWP-C's

Rainwater Harvesting model. During that period, visitors to the NSC were able to learn about the benefits of rainwater harvesting, concepts of hard and soft water, hydroponics, water density, capillary action, cohesion, tension and conduct simple water quality tests.

Children that were seven years and under were able to explore the world of water through specially designed activities in a “Kidiplay” area. Primary school students were able to learn about the water cycle and simple ways to conserve water.

Additionally, in commemorating WWD in Trinidad, the Water Resources Agency (WRA) shared knowledge with employees at the Atlantic Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) company on March 21st and 22nd, 2012 with a presentation on the “State of Water Resources in Trinidad and Tobago.” The WRA also partnered with the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) to put on an exhibit at the Lower Cumuto Primary School which is located in a rural community in Trinidad. There the WRA shared information with students on the important uses of water and the need for conserving this resource at home.

GWP Central America

To celebrate World Water Day 2012 (March 22), GWP Central America organized various events in the region to promote dialogue of issues relevant to water, including food security, the human right to water and sanitation, climate change and water governance.



GWP Guatemala jointly coordinated a series of events in March including a forum on the human right to water and sanitation, a seminar on consumer rights and the human right to water, a national forum on water, food security and climate change, and a national congress on the national river basins. [MORE»](#)

GWP El Salvador celebrated World Water Day with a two-day event meant to inform on the water situation in the country and encourage the involvement of the civil society in the promotion of good governance of water resources. [MORE»](#)



GWP Honduras participated in the organization of the “National Forum: Right to Water and Sanitation” which was attended by representatives from the government, civil society and academia. The keynote speech was given by the international expert, Dr. Carlos Fernandez-Jauregui, Director de Water Assessment & Advisory – Global Network (WASA-GN). [MORE»](#)

GWP Honduras also organized a forum with students and teachers from the National University to share information and strengthen their knowledge on the effect of climate change on water resources in Honduras. [MORE»](#)

Members of **GWP Costa Rica** participated in a radio and TV program, both from the University of Costa Rica, to discuss issues related to food security and the status of the Water Law in the country. [MORE»](#)

GWP Panama also participated in the regional discussion on the right to water and sanitation, their event was held on the 30th of March.

➤ **The Water Law of El Salvador presented to Congress**

To celebrate World Water Day, the President of El Salvador through the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, presented the General Water Law to the National Congress on the 22nd of March. The Law recognizes the human right to water and recognizes the watershed approach.

The water reform in El Salvador has been led by the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency (STP) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), with the participation of the 13 governmental institutions related to water. The process has included the participation of civil society and the different stakeholders, which has been an important contribution of GWP and other networks in the country.

The General Water Law was presented to the public on the 28th of March at an event organized by the MARN, which was attended by various stakeholders of Salvadoran society.

It is expected that the Water Law will be approved by the National Congress in the coming days and in this context, various government agencies and civil society have been actively supporting and lobbying for the endorsement of this Law.

GWP South Asia

CELEBRATION OF WORLD WATER DAY 2012

GWP Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh has decided to celebrate World Water Day in all the 64 administrative districts of the country and for the first time BWP has been made a cosponsor of this event. Previously the celebration was limited to few large cities. BWP will also participate in the main celebrations in Dhaka, the capital city. In addition to this, the Surma Area Water Partnership will also conduct a seminar to celebrate world water day and disseminate the major theme of “Water and Food Security” in the area.

GWP Central and Eastern Europe celebrates World Water Day 2012

In the frame of the National Celebration of World Water Day, **GWP Bulgaria** organized the session at Technical House in Sofia on 23 March. The topic was renewable energy sources and IWRM focusing on specific use of technologies in wastewater treatment processes. On the base of discussion GWP partners decided to propose to Minister of Environment and Water organizing conference of national experts on applied wastewater technologies and its ecological effect. Several new waste water treatment plants were constructed with the support of European Union funds and state budget however, only some of them correspond to European standards. **GWP Bulgaria** will be co-organizer and facilitator on sustainable sanitation in small agglomerations.

József Gayer Chair of **GWP Hungary** attended the WWD celebration of GWP partner Hungarian Water Utility Association. The event offered excellent possibility for networking among the water professionals and executives of the country.

GWP Moldova in cooperation with the Ministry of Education organized a national contest of the environmental projects among pupils dedicated to the World Water Day on 16-17 March 2012.

Around 40 projects were presented and evaluated during the event. Total more than 60 pupils from all regions of the country took part in the competition. Results of the event were presented in local mass-media.

GWP Romania participated in International Conference with the theme “Monitoring of Water Pollution and Waste Water Treatment” held in Sinaia at the Prahova Valley on 21-23 March. The conference, dedicated to World Water Day was organized by the Petroleum and Gas University from Ploiesti and a consortium of equipment’s, technologies and consultancy providers acting mainly in the gas and petroleum industry. Eng. Liviu Nicolae Popescu, GWP Romania President, presented the water quality monitoring activities at the Danube Basin wide level (Trans National Monitoring Network – structure, functions, results and outputs), followed by Drd. C. Hamchevici (GWP-RO member), presently working in the National Water Authorities „APELE ROMANE“ that has presented the National Water Quality Monitoring System with its structure and all its functions and rules. In the second part of the conference, GWP CEE and GWP Romania activities were presented focusing on the role of waste water treatment processes from small settlements that needs to be promoted mainly in the context of IWRM principles application, when we advocate for the water quality preservation and/or its improvement by means of best effective and best affordable solutions in small settlements, while the major settlements have full support from all structures. As a result, GWP Romania was invited to visit the Ploiesti Gas and Petroleum Technical University to deliver presentation and documentations about Integrated Water Resources Management applied according with all its universal recognized 4 principles and which are the basic frame and skeleton of GWP network activities.

GWP Slovenia celebrated World Water Day with the participation at the 1st Congress of Slovenian waters 2012. Members of GWP Slovenia presented their activities on a poster.

<http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/kongresvoda/KongresVod2012.pdf>

World Water Day Summary

<http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-CEE/gwp-cee-in-action/news-and-activities/GWP-CEE-celebrates-World-Water-Day-2012/>

22 March (Thursday)

Congress of Slovenian Waters 2012

Country and city: Slovenia, Ljubljana

Location: Biotechnological Faculty, Jamnikarjeva 101, Ljubljana

GWP Slovenia members presented their activities on the poster.

Organizers: Slovenian Committee for the International Decade Water for Life 2005-2015

Contact: kongresvoda@fgg.uni-lj.si

Website: <http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/kongresvoda/KongresVod2012.pdf>

22-23 March (Thursday-Friday)

19th National Celebration of World Water Day

Country and city: Sofia, Bulgaria

Location: National House of Science and Technique, Sofia, 108 Rakovski Str.

Organizers: Ministry of Environment and Water and Scientific-Technical Union of Water Affairs in Bulgaria in cooperation with GWP Bulgaria. GWP Bulgaria organized Renewable Energy Resources Session on 23 March between 10:00 -12:00 o'clock.

Contact: Dr. Galia Bardarska, e-mail: bwp@dir.bg

23 March 2012 (Friday)

Conference: How Environmental Education Supports Development of Water Management

Country and city: Estonia, Tartu

Location: Institute of Chemistry, University of Tartu, Ravila Street 14A.

Organizers: Estonian Water Association (host institute to GWP Estonia), Institute of Chemistry (Department of Environmental Chemistry) and University of Tartu. During the conference, 9 presentations were followed by visits to laboratories of environmental chemistry.

Contact: Arvo Järvet, email: ajarvet@ut.ee

Website: <http://veeyhing.ee/>

24-25 March (Saturday-Sunday)

World Water Day 2012

City: Hungary, Budapest

Location: Budapest ZOO

Organizers: Budapest Waterworks, Budapest Zoo, Danube Museum and GWP Hungary

Contact: Celebration took place in Budapest ZOO, 1146 Budapest Allatkerti krt. 6-12.

Website: <http://www.vizvilagnap.hu>

CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

In CACENA the World Water Day was especially celebrated by **GWP Armenia**.

Country Water Partnership NGO together with its partner organizations- SPRING GROUP Strategic PR Initiative Group, DEMO Production, Coca Cola Hellenic Company, has implemented numerous activities in order to celebrate the World Water Day and raise public awareness on it.

The series of events was commenced by the **press conference** held on 6th of March, where a series of events on “Let’s care – World Water Day 2012- Armenia” project and the current situation with water safety and related issues in Armenia were presented.



More than 15 correspondents were present to the press conference, who latter have illustrated the project with various media keys (TV, radio, newsletters.)

TV and on-line interview series have been held with the invited specialists, which aimed to present the activities and projects of the program to the wide auditorium, also to inform about the aims and the issues of the World Water Day.

A series of **photo sessions** with public figures and representatives of show business were implemented aiming to inform the wide community and the youth the current situation with water resources and related issues in Armenia, as well as highlight the main issues on water.

An open **Photo Contest** was announced to present the social, environmental, esthetic and other kind of issues connected to the water resources from the view point of the public. The winner of the Photo Contest was awarded with a prize.

Professional discussions were held, where experts discussed the main issues of the water sector and the further steps to address them.



It is designed to publish **thematic articles**, based on the results of studies and viewpoints of the conference participants.

The program was accomplished on 22nd of March with a **Conference** held in “Armenia Marriott” hotel. Representatives of Ministry of Nature Protection RA, Ministry for Territorial Governance of RA, Ministries of Agriculture and Health Protection, private sector, international organizations and also mass media were present to the conference.



The speakers of the Conference went into the issues of water resources contamination (both household and industrial, specially mining waste water), which are crucial for Armenia and need both political, and legislative and institutional solutions. The Climate Change Challenges connected with protection of water resources, also the developed action plan for adaptation were also presented at the Conference.

Summarizing the speeches and discussions of the Conference, the participants highlighted following issues:

There are no standards for irrigation water quality in Armenia, so it is impossible to irrigate with waste water jeopardizing the safety of agricultural products, in some cases also dairy products and meat products.

The standards for waste water treatment are rather strict and huge investments are needed to fulfill them, which is not achievable for the country and the local market.

As a result, the waste waters flow into the surface and underground water basins without treatment. The waste water is not considered as water resource and there are no encouraging mechanisms for waste water treatment institutions.

The government does not have any clear policy and strategy for waste water treatment and to review the treated water as an additional water resource for reuse.

Considering the issues, there is a need to develop:

- ✓ a clear policy and a new strategy for industrial and house hold waste water treatment and treated water reuse – to develop new and modern methods for waste water treatment in Armenia,
- ✓ to develop irrigation water standards, in accordance with European standards and regulations,
- ✓ to review the existing standards for waste water treatment and develop a step by step strategy for waste water treatment – allowing the local market institutions achieve the final phase of waste water treatment in a corresponding period.
- ✓ To develop encouraging mechanisms for local market – to foster the waste water treatment process,
- ✓ To implement a corresponding legislative and normative changes into the existing laws and orders.

The participants of the Conference have come to a conclusion, that water resources protection and careful attitude to the water resources will allow our country to resist both the Climate Change and meet the existing food safety challenges.

GWP SOUTH AMERICA

The WWD was celebrated in South America with the following events organized by GWP:

WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATIONS IN PERU AND VENEZUELA

GWP Venezuela celebrated the World Water Day a whole week with a series of activities ranging from forums and conferences to the exhibition of documentaries and a “tweeteron” or marathon of tweets, in which tweets aimed at raising awareness and improving knowledge of the topic were sent to all contacts.

Water and Food Security was the focus theme of this year and the conferences given versed on relevant topics and their relation to the focus theme. The main topics addressed were Climate Change, Development and Energetic Efficiency, Health and Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins.

The event “Cine Foro” in the state of Zulia, showed documentaries which shared knowledge with regards to one of the biggest challenges which this state faces, the conservation of Sierra de Perijá, where the sources of a great amount of the rivers which feed the states’ reservoirs and Maracaibo’s lake are found.

But it were the forums which stood out. The forum “Water, a resource appreciated by many and valued by a few” gathered more than 420 people, including teachers coordinating the environmental area of 320 schools in the State of Carabobo, librarians from 40 public libraries, parish coordinators of Civil Protection of the 14 municipalities of Carabobo, environment coordinators of companies subscribed to the Chamber of Industry and representatives of the educational community as well as community councils close to participating schools. It was organized by the Government of Carabobo in alliance with GWP Venezuela, among other organizations, and therefore contributed to strengthen bonds especially between GWP Venezuela and the local government.

In the forum “A coffee with Water and Food Security”, about 40 people from NGOs, universities, government entities and private companies participated. Concepts such as social water management, food security and food sovereignty were reviewed and discussed, whereas proposals

to improve the social management of water to guarantee food security and rural sustainable development were presented. Among the proposals put forward were:
-to increase transparency regarding the management of information on the situation of water resources by creating, for instance, centers of local and regional information and knowledge in basins.

-to develop a policy on Food Security which considers social management of water in basins; and
-to create a flexible credit fund for the private sector to facilitate financing of high-performance and eco-efficient irrigation infrastructure.

A current issue for Venezuelans, an oil spill which occurred in February in a river of Monagas State was also addressed in the Forum. This accident left the capital of this State, Maturin, without water and affected crops and biodiversity in the area.

Juan Carlos Sánchez, professor at the Faculty of Engineering of the Central University of Venezuela and co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 2007, explained the effects of an oil spill and the contingency measures that should be taken, using the case of River Guarapiche as an example.

Another outstanding presence was that of Hiram Gaviria, President of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change of the National Assembly, who gave a speech on Water, Food Security and Sustainable Development in Venezuela. His contribution was very valuable as he also facilitated participants' contact with the person in charge of the development of the environmental legislation in Venezuela.

In Peru, GWP Peru, the UNESCO-IHP Peruvian National Committee and the Meteorological and Hydrological National Service-SENAMHI, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, organized the IV Water Festival, which included the scientific Symposium "Weather, Climate and Water, engines of our future" and the event Water Market, carried out on 22-23 March in Lima. The Vice-minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of the Environment, Mr. Gabriel Quijandria Acosta, opened the Symposium emphasizing the importance of the nexus between water and food security. He highlighted its relevance for Peru, being this a country with a large arid and semi-arid area, and the urgent need to improve the efficiency in water management. At the Water Market, state entities, including the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Housing, the National Water Authority, and private companies presented 14 stands, which showed the water-related work they have been currently developing in order to raise public awareness on its saving and protection. Water professionals, technicians, university students and scholars participated in this event dedicated to the public in general.

GWP SOUTH ASIA

In South Asia the following events organized by GWP took place to celebrate World Water Day.

BANGLADESH WATER PARTNERSHIP

To create awareness about the global water crisis, and encourage people to conserve water and ensure integrity in the water sector, BWP celebrated World Water Day 2012 in different ways.

2.1. Celebration with the Government of Bangladesh as a cosponsor of the country wide mega event

This year the Government of Bangladesh celebrated the World Water Day in all the 64 administrative districts of the country. Previously the celebration had been limited to few large cities. For the first time BWP acted as a cosponsor of this country wide mega event.



Special news paper supplement published on World Water Day (cosponsor BWP)



Posters brought out on World Water Day and distributed throughout the country by the GoB (cosponsor BWP)



BWP also participated in the main celebrations, a workshop on “Water & Food Security”. Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sen MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) was the Chief Guest and Sekh Altaf Ali, Senior Secretary, MoWR, GoB was the Special Guest of this workshop. Mr. AKM Shahiduzzaman, Director General, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Chaired the workshop, while Ms.

Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sen MP, Honorable Minister delivering a speech as Chief Guest

Kamrun Nahar Khanam , Additional Secretary, MoWR, GoB made the opening remarks.

Leading professionals in water and agriculture sector emphasized the significance and importance of Water and Food Security. This interactive and participatory session explored ways to improve water and food security in a word where water is increasingly becoming a scarce resource. Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP participated as a designated discussant on the papers presented. Ms. K. M. Zeba Rahman, Executive Secretary, BWP and Ms. Mukta Akter, Accounts & Administration officer, BWP also participated in the event.



Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq delivering a speech as a designated discussant of the workshop

2.2 Participation in the “Human chain” formed in front of Press Club, Dhaka organized by BAWIN and BAPA.



BWP along with BWP Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) and NGO Forum organized a “Human chain” which was formed in front of Press Club, Dhaka to highlight importance of integrity in the water sector. Ms. K. M. Zeba Rahman, Executive Secretary, BWP and Ms. Mukta Akter, Accounts & Administration officer, BWP also participated in the event.

BHUTAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

Report on World Water Day Celebration on 22nd March, 2012

Bhutan Water Partnership in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and SNV-Bhutan held celebrations to mark World Water Day 2012. The purpose of the program was to create public awareness on water and its related issues and at the same time to plan actions on the ground for positive changes. Ceremonial functions were carried out, followed by an exhibition and performances presented by over 1500 students and teachers from 16 schools. Simultaneously, eight schools also took action by adopting a number of streams and a section of the main river flowing through the heart of the capital city. After the official adoption of the river and the streams, the students, teachers and local community members conducted cleaning of the stream and public awareness activities.

The schools presented a mixture of well thought out presentations on the themes that were adopted for the day such as:

Water for Sanitation,

Water for Hygiene,

Water for Drinking and

Water for Environment

A number of government agencies that are stakeholders in water issues participated in the program either as silent observers or as actors to create public awareness. The Opposition Leader Lyonpo Tshering Tobgay who was the Guest of Honour, rightly pointed out in his key note address that – “We have to be judicious while using water, and that’s the only way we can conserve water.” One of the Principals of a school who was present during the celebration stated that - “Conservation of water should be an everyday realization and not just a reminder on this particular day.”

The Bhutan Water Partnership focused its celebrations mainly on river and stream adoption by schools in the capital city that had shown an interest in supporting such initiatives. The objective of the program was to involve and delegate responsibilities to these schools in protecting the river Wangchu and few tributary streams. It was observed that in the recent years due to increase in the city population and the people’s wasteful consumption pattern, the river and the streams running through the city have become partially polluted. Therefore there was a need for an action. This initiative of the partnership would help to maintain the quality of water in the river and preserve the eco-system around it.

The Partnership will continue working with the schools to achieve its goal of “Clean Rivers for Healthy Environment.”

A2. GWP-INDIA

A 2.1 World Water Day Celebration at Kholan village of Titlagada block, Bolangir district (Orissa) GWP-India with the support of partner NGO Udyama, Bhubaneshwar celebrated World Water Day on 22nd March, 2012 and conducted a workshop on community livelihood resilience on climate change. Both events were organized at Kholan G.P Head Quarter of Kholan of Titlagada block, Bolangir district (Orissa). Women SHG members, Anganwadi, ASHA workers, youths, children government officials and the PRI members participated in the World Water Day Celebration. Titlagad is a hot and drought prone area with severe drinking water problem.

A rally with the participants with play cards and banner depicting the message of World Water Day started from the Kholan. The main objective of the rally was to educate the community on how to obtain and conserve the fresh water and save water at an individual in the community, thus increasing availability of water for households.

The rally thereafter assembled at Panchayat meeting hall for discussion regarding the need of celebrating the World Water Day. The workshop started in the presence of Block Development Officer of Titlagarh Block and Executive Officer. At the outset Mr. Narayan Barik, Coordinator of UDYAMA welcomed all the distinguished delegates followed by discussions on the goal and objective of the World Water Day and later the workshop objectives were given by Cluster coordinator of UDYAMA Mr. Manohar



World Water Day celebration at Kholan G.P Head Quarter of Kholan of Titlagada block, Bolangir district (Orissa)

Sunani.

Chief Guest Mr. Mahendra Pradhan, Block Development Officer of Titilagarh Block addressed the gathering about the water situation at present and in future, and encouraged the participants to save and protect water in their locality. He also provided information about the Govt. scheme and programme, water related programmes such as MNREGS, KBK funds, Western Orissa Development Council fund, Soil Conservation and Watershed development schemes, how to recharge ground water, etc. and how these programmes are helping in ground water recharging and addressing climate change vulnerabilities through the planting of tree, environment protection and road connectivity for communication.

He also encouraged all the participants to create new ponds in the land for the storage of water, groundwater recharge and irrigation facility. He also informed the participants that the State Govt. would give Rs. 50000/- (Fifty thousand rupees) to every BPL card holder family to create a new pond on their own land.

During discussions, the SHG members raised issues about the Tube wells and water problem in the kholan G.P. It was stated that most of the tubes well are not working and some of are damaged, while community reservoirs have silted up, dried up and wells are also drying up. It was pointed out that there is a serious drinking water shortage and that these issues would become very acute in coming days if this trend continued.

The community raised rights based issues regarding installation of tube wells and demanded more wells as population has increased substantially. Most of them are forced to collect polluted water from river and ponds causing serious health problems. Hearing from community, the B.D.O assured the community that their water problems would be fulfilled and resolved. He further assured the gathering, that in case of any delay; the water tank would provide and distribute fresh drinking water in every village of the Titilagarh block as this block has a gross shortage of drinking water.

The Executive Officer also spoke about the World Water Day. He described the water and food security and agricultural situation in the locality due to impact of climate change, ways of protecting the environment and saving the water and earth. Mr. Dharmendra Bhoi, the Sarapanch of Kholan spoke about the sanitation and water problems of the Kholan Gram Panchayat. He encouraged SHG members to save the money through the Bank and undertake some profitable activities for their group and individual growth.

A2.2 World Water Day Celebration at Dhenkanal District, Orissa

GWP-India organized the World Water Day or Vishwa Jala Divas with the support of partner NGO; Arun Institute of Rural Affairs, Dhenkanal District, Orissa and the participation of school children from Kadua and Bhagirathipur villages of Dhenkanal district, Orissa. More than 250 students both boys & girls marched the village streets with placards bearing slogans 'save water', 'save our planet' in their attempt to educate and improve awareness among the community members.



Rally by School children on World Water Day at Kadua and Bhagirathipur villages of Dhenkanal district, Orissa

Apart from the school teachers, school committee members, Director Arun Institute of Rural Affairs, Parimal Area Water Partnership Convener and volunteers played a supportive role in observing and reminding the community of the Day's importance.

A2.3 Celebration of World Water Day at Greater NOIDA and Meerut City, Uttar Pradesh

On the occasion of World Water Day, GWP-India with the support of its network partner Janhit Foundation, Meerut, organized an Inter college debate competition at Greater NOIDA March 21, 2012 at Radha Govind College and on 22nd April, 2012, the World Water Day was celebrated at Deewan VS Institute of Engineering, Meerut. The events took place with the participation of 16 teams from different colleges. The topic of the debate was 'Water should be considered a National Property' and the students shared their views on ownership and non-ownership of water resources as a National property (national or private). The guests at Radha Govind College were Mr. Sanjay Rana (Director, Aqua Foundation) and Dr. Veena Khanduri (Executive Secretary, IWP). Similarly, the Chief Guest at the Meerut function were Ms. Madhu Gujjar (Mayor – Meerut) and the other honored guests were Dr. Veena Khanduri (Executive Secretary, IWP), Mr. Prabhat Roy (Retd. PCS Officer) and Ms. Anvita Aggarwal (Professor, R G College, Meerut). Dr. Sanjeev Kaushik (Director – Deewan College), Dr. Vineet Kumar (Dean – Deewan College) and Dr. P. K. Aggarwal (Director – Deewan Management College) were also present at the event as special guests. Eco-club of Deewan College also showed an active participation in the competition. MIET, Meerut ranked first; IIMT ranked second and Deewan institute came third in the debate. The winners were awarded with a trophy and all the participants were given a certificate by India Water Partnership and Janhit Foundation.

A2.4 Celebration of World Water Day at Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

GWP-India with the support of partner NGO; Neer Foundation (Meerut) organized one more event on the occasion of World Water Day, at Meerut from 22nd March, 2012 to 24th March, 2012.

On March 22nd, a walk for water was organized in which 200 school children, social workers and community members participated. The walk started from Chaudhary Charan Singh Park situated in the heart of the city, crossed District Magistrate office and ended back at Chaudhary Charan Singh park. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India showed the green flag to flag off the march.



Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India showing the green flag for the water walk



Water walk by school children at Meerut



School children of BDS School, Meerut receiving Certificates for their participation in the Inter-school poster competition

Mr. Gajendra Singh, BSA Meerut instructed the children on how water conservation should be done at each level. He gave a message to all the participants that we should all become ‘Water Savors’ and conserve each drop. Dr. Veena Khanduri informed the children that this year’s theme of World Water Day is ‘Water and Food Security’ since it is well known that food availability is linked with water.

During the walk, all students carried banners and posters displaying water conservation and water quality related slogans. The students while marching shouted messages on different ways to conserve water and distributed informative pamphlets. About 10 schools participated in the event. An inter-school poster competition was also organized at BDS Institute wherein students painted drawings on the topics related to ‘Water Conservation and Pollution’. About 80 students of class 6th to 8th from different schools participated in the competition.

A2.5 Celebration of World Water Day at Indore, Madhya Pradesh

India Water Partnership (GWP India)
 Central Zonal Water Partnership
 Coordinating Agency Navdeep, organized World Water Day 2012, in Indore city, Madhya Pradesh, to integrate school education with water saving, health, hygiene and sanitation awareness. The programme which was first of its kind, has not only generated thinking among school children on water conservation, hygiene and sanitation but also motivated school teachers to provide information to students as to how habits of using safe water can be improved among children living in Slum areas.



Celebration of World Water Day at Indore, Madhya Pradesh

The World Water Day planning started around three months ago and several informal meetings with Education department, Sociologists and environmentalists were conducted by Central Zonal Coordinator. Mrs. Rajani Jadon, District Education Officer, Indore, was particularly keen on organizing such a programme in a girls’ school as, she pointed out, “the burden of collecting water for family lies on womenfolk and impure water adds their woes in the form of diseases among family members.” Hence she identified Govt. Malav Girls’ High School, M.O.G. Lines, Indore- Shala Sankul Kendra i.e. school complex centre, an administrative unit for 16 Middle and Primary schools- to be the centre for initiating the programme “Awareness on Water in School Education”.

During the week prior to World Water Day, a number of activities, as directed by Mr. Shashi Kant Guberele Principal and head of the Shala Sankul Kendra, were organized by Head Masters and teachers in schools. Students were asked to write essays and poems etc. on importance of water. The finale was on 22 March, when a two hour programme was organized at Shala Sankul Kendra- Govt. Malav Kanya High School. The theme of the programme was “ Paani ki Bachat : Bachchon ki Sehat” (Save Water : save health of children). Mr. Uday Shankar Vyas, Head Master, Govt. Malav Kanya (Girls’) Middle School No. -1 (In-charge of the activity) presented a summary of the one week activities with the guest and children. The selected students read their writings on water and related issues. An oath to save water was taken by all attending the function. Chief Guest of the function, renowned environmentalist Padmshri Mr. M.G.K.Menon , in his address called students “ Jal- Sevak and Jal Sevikayen” (Volunteers to save water). He gave many practical tips to save water in routine

life. City corporator Mr. Sudhir Dedge, presiding over the function, requested teachers and students to play an important role in conserving water. Mr. Ravindra Shukla, Chairman of Nava deep Voluntary Organisation, as main speaker, described how curriculum refinement is being done in Kerala to make students aware on water crisis. He also said according to the Hague declaration “Water is everybody’s business”, teachers have to play roles on par with water resources engineers or economists. Health, hygiene and sanitation issues are related with water.

Mrs. Vandana Vyas, a teacher in a primary school located in Bara Mattha, a slum area in Indore; was honored by the chief guest for her devoted work in educating children and their parents on the use of safe water, health, hygiene and sanitation. She has been carrying out her work despite many difficulties in the area. She narrated her experiences in the slum area and how she managed to receive the cooperation of local residents. The best students were awarded for their creative writings and speeches and an exhibition with display material and good publications on importance of safe water use and children’s health was also organized in the school. The programme was conducted by Ms. Pratibha Raghuwanshi.

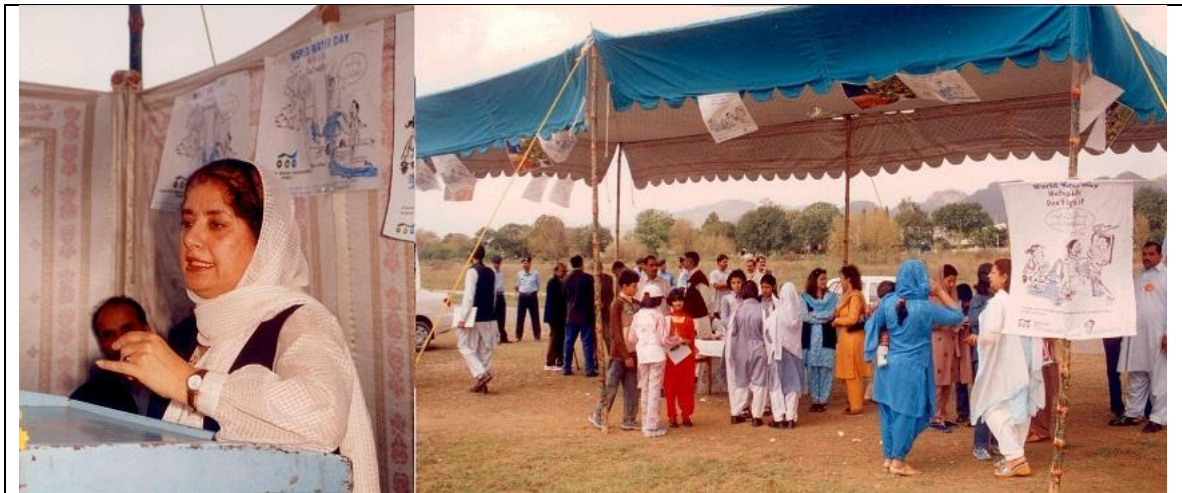
GWP NEPAL/JVS at Nepal National Water Week (NNWW), 2012

World Water Day (WWD) on 22th March, 2012 and World Meteorological Day (WMD) on 23rd March, 2012 were celebrated this year too with a week-long program for which NNWW Main Organizing Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Secretary of Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS). The committee comprised members from government, non-government institutions, academic institutions and business houses, GWP Nepal/JVS being one of them.

Mr. Iswer Raj Onta, Chair, GWP Nepal/JVS attended the Opening Ceremony of NNWW-2012 on 16th March. Mr. Surya Nath Upadhyay, Secretary General, GWP Nepal/JVS, chaired the session on National Symposium on “Water and Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities” held on 22nd March at the Hotel Everest, Kathmandu which was jointly organized by WECS and NNWW Organizing committee 2012.

PAKISTAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP) and its Area Water Partnerships (AWPs) actively celebrated the World Water Day 2012 on 22 March 2012 at Islamabad, Dera Ismail Khan, Quetta, Mastung, Lahore, Sanghar and in many other cities of Pakistan. Below are photographs of the WWD awareness walk organized at Islamabad:



Famous Cartoonist Ms. Gogi delivering awareness message to the participants of Awareness Walk.

World Water Day Participants gathering for Awareness Walk in Islamabad on 22 March.

3. World Water Day 2012 celebrations by AWP:

4.1 Following are the pictures of World Water Day Celebrations undertaken by Southern Districts AWP in Dera Ismail Khan on 22nd March 2012. The event was celebrated at Stars Foundation School, University Road, Dera Ismail Khan. The students volunteered their services and demonstrated enthusiasm for the activity. They also hired services of Mr. Rehmatullah and Mr. Farooq to help them reach out to local communities. As a whole it was a successful event, thanks to Mr. Shahjahan Bhatti, Chairperson, Southern Districts AWP. The photographs are also uploaded on Tripwov with the link <http://tripwow.tripadvisor.com/tripwow/ta-048f-0a34-cb7e?em=1&st=88599464>





4.2 Bolan and Sarawan AWP's celebrated World Water Day in Quetta and Mastung on 22 March 2012 and displayed awareness banners at prominent places in both cities. Awareness material was distributed among general public and school students.





SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP

The 3rd Programme Committee Meeting of SLWP was held on 6th March. Focus was on WWD activities and preparation for young water professional's symposium later in the year and on the UN Asia Pacific Adaptation Network Activity being undertaken by SLWP on behalf of GWP SAS as theme leader for water. The first Steering Committee meeting of SLWP for 2012 is scheduled for 9th April. World Water Day Activities; Adjustment to planned WWD activities had to be made since most of the activity coordinators and resource persons were away at the WWF6 in Marseille. The Gender and Water Dialogue in Puttalam organized as a WWD activity will now be held on 2nd and 3rd April.